

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/687,443

Examiner

Marivelisse Santiago-Cordero

Applicant(s)

REYES, JOE

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2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed on 11/28/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark A. Kupanoff on 01/09/07.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An aircraft communication system, comprising:

a plurality of radios;

a plurality of push-to-talk (PTT) switches, each PTT switch having at least an ON position and an OFF position and configured to supply an ON/OFF signal representative of the position of the PTT switch; and

a controller in operable communication with each radio and coupled to receive the ON/OFF signal from each PTT switch, the controller configured, in response to the ON/OFF signal, to (i) selectively enable one or more of the radios to transmit (ii) determine whether each PTT switch is stuck in the ON position and (iii) when a PTT switch is stuck in the ON position, to deselect the stuck PTT switch without affecting the activity of other PTT switches available to be coupled to the plurality of the radios such that the one or more of the radios ~~[[is]]~~ remain operable via the other PTT switches.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising: an input buffer coupled between each PTT switch and the controller and configured to supply [[the]] buffered ON/OFF signals to the controller.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
one or more timer circuits, each timer circuit configured to supply a time signal when at least one of the PTT switches is in the ON position,

wherein the controller determines that a PTT switch is stuck in the ON position [[, a]] when the time signal indicates the PTT switch has been in the ON position for at least a predetermined time value.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for handling a STUCK-ON condition of a push-to-talk (PTT) switch coupled to a plurality of radio transmitters, comprising:

a PTT switch configured to supply a PTT ON/OFF signal;

a plurality of selection switches, each selection switch configured to supply a radio selection signal; and

a controller coupled to the PTT switch, each of the selection switches, and each of the radio transmitters, and configured to:

(i) receive the PTT ON/OFF signal and the radio selection signal from each selection switch;

(ii) select one of the radio transmitters based on the radio selection signal;

(iii) determine whether the PTT switch is in the STUCK-ON condition;

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(iv) until the STUCK-ON condition occurs, supply either a TRANSMIT or a STANDBY command to the selected radio transmitter based on the PTT switch ON/OFF signal, to thereby cause the selected radio transmitter to transmit or not transmit, respectively; and

(v) when the STUCK-ON condition occurs, ignore the PTT switch ON/OFF signal and place the selected radio transmitter in STANDBY without affecting the activity of other PTT switches available to be coupled to the selected radio transmitter such that the selected radio transmitter remains operable via other PTT switches.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising: an input buffer coupled between the PTT switch and the controller and configured to supply [[the]] buffered ON/OFF signals to the controller.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 7, 12, and 15 are allowed because the closest prior art, Arndt et al. (Patent No.: 4,932,071), either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render obvious an aircraft communication system, an apparatus, a method, and an audio panel for handling a stuck-on condition of a push-to-talk (PTT) switch coupled to a plurality of radio transmitters wherein when a PTT switch is stuck in the ON position, deselect the stuck PTT switch (claims 1 and 15), ignore the PTT switch ON/OFF signal and place the selected radio transmitter in STANDBY (claim 7), inhibiting the signal representative of the position of the PTT switch that is in the STUCK-on condition from being received by each radio transmitter (claim 12) without affecting the activity of other PTT switches available to be coupled to the plurality of radios such that the

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one or more of the radios remain operable via the other PTT switches as defined in the specification (Fig. 4), in combination with all other limitations in the claim(s) as defined by applicant.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marivelisse Santiago-Cordero whose telephone number is (571) 272-7839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (571) 272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MSC 1/9/07

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